

MARVEL
REMEMBERS



JOHN
ROMITA

MARVEL 1

KELLY ★ LANZING ★ CARNERO ★ WOODARD

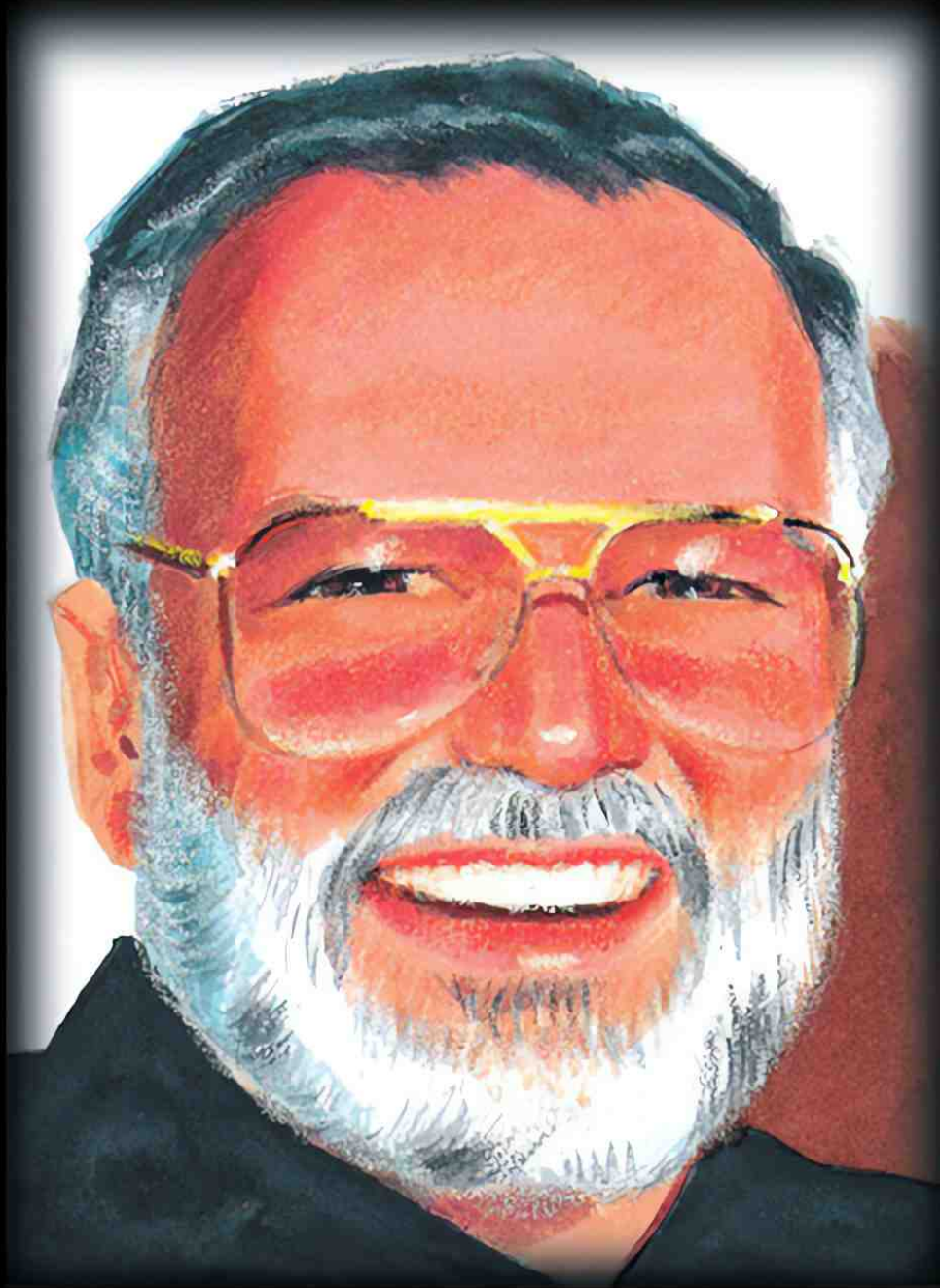
CAPTAIN AMERICA

FINALE



John Romita

1930 – 2023



Marvel mourns the passing of comic-book artist John Romita Sr., whose work on *Amazing Spider-Man* helped make the character a worldwide sensation. In his work as Marvel's art director, he designed the Punisher and Wolverine and served as mentor for countless artists during his decades-long tenure with the company.

Romita had a profound effect on everyone he met at Marvel. He was always kind and warm and served as an inspiration to all who knew him or followed his work. Romita helped build the Marvel Universe as we know it, and he will be greatly missed.



DECADES OF AMAZING WORK

John Romita wore many hats at Marvel. His most famous contribution was his run on *Amazing Spider-Man*, including the cover below for the series' landmark fiftieth issue. His association with the character included drawing the cover of the famed wedding of Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson in *Amazing Spider-Man Annual #21* and launching the Spider-Man newspaper strip with Stan Lee in 1977. Behind the scenes, Romita was responsible for designing many of Marvel's most famous characters. At bottom are Romita's costume designs for Black Widow and Wolverine.

"John Romita Sr. was an incomparable artist who brought so many iconic Marvel characters to life on the page and set the tone and look of Marvel's comics for decades. His version of Spider-Man has inspired so many of us at Marvel Studios. Our thoughts are with his family and the generations of artists and fans who fell in love with the characters he drew."

— KEVIN FEIGE

"I was recently able to fawn over some of John Romita Sr.'s original Spider-Man pages, and the word that kept popping into my mind as I marveled over his linework was 'timeless.' His style was such a departure from what had come before, which John did say made him nervous, but one that came to define the look of Peter, Spider-Man, MJ, Gwen and everyone else in their orbit. And the same was true for every Marvel character John designed, penciled and inked. Whether as an artist or art director, John's work influenced generations of comic book artists. With his passing, the comic industry loses a true legend, but just like his artwork, his legacy will remain timeless."

— C.B. CEBULSKI

"When you close your eyes and picture Spider-Man, you're probably picturing a John Romita Sr. Spider-Man. From his debut of the character in *Amazing Spider-Man #39*, the subsequent fifty issues of art, more than a hundred covers and the work he did on the newspaper strip, John defined Spidey for generations of people around the world. That would be enough for anyone else, but John was also an excellent art director, a fantastic father, a doting grandfather and a gentleman. All of us making Spider-Man comics, and Marvel Comics in general, work in his shadow and strive to live up to the example of the legend, Jazzy John Romita."

— NICK LOWE



"One of the highlights of my career was working with John Romita Sr. I couldn't believe that my 25-year-old self was working and interacting with him, and what made it even better was that he was so considerate and kind – something that has stuck with me ever since, among many other memories with him. It was one of the rare moments where you meet one of your heroes and he exceeds your expectations in every possible way.

His contributions to Marvel's pantheon and culture are immense, and he will be sorely missed. He was a great and kind man who truly made the world a better place. My deepest condolences to Virginia, Johnny and the Romita family."

— DAN BUCKLEY

1940! As the world teetered on the brink of global war, frail Steve Rogers entered a secret laboratory and was transformed into the American Super-Soldier! For five thrilling years, he fought the Axis Powers--until a freak stroke of fate threw him into suspended animation. When he awoke, he was a man decades out of his time! Since that fateful day, Steve Rogers has sought his destiny in this brave new world!

CAPTAIN AMERICA

FINALE

When Bucky Barnes' vendetta against the secretive Outer Circle led to the death of Roger Aubrey, A.K.A. Destroyer, and forced Bucky to team up with Sam Wilson's nemesis, White Wolf, Steve Rogers thought his best friend was lost for good. But Bucky revealed he's been on the side of the angels all along, albeit using methods Steve wouldn't agree with. And when the grandson of the man who forged Steve's shield arrived with a message--that the shield is the key to destroying the Outer Circle once and for all--Steve and Bucky decided to put aside their differences for one last mission.



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CAPTAIN AMERICA CREATED BY JOE SIMON & JACK KIRBY



THE SHADOW CAPITOL.



WE'VE COME TO THE END OF THE GAME.

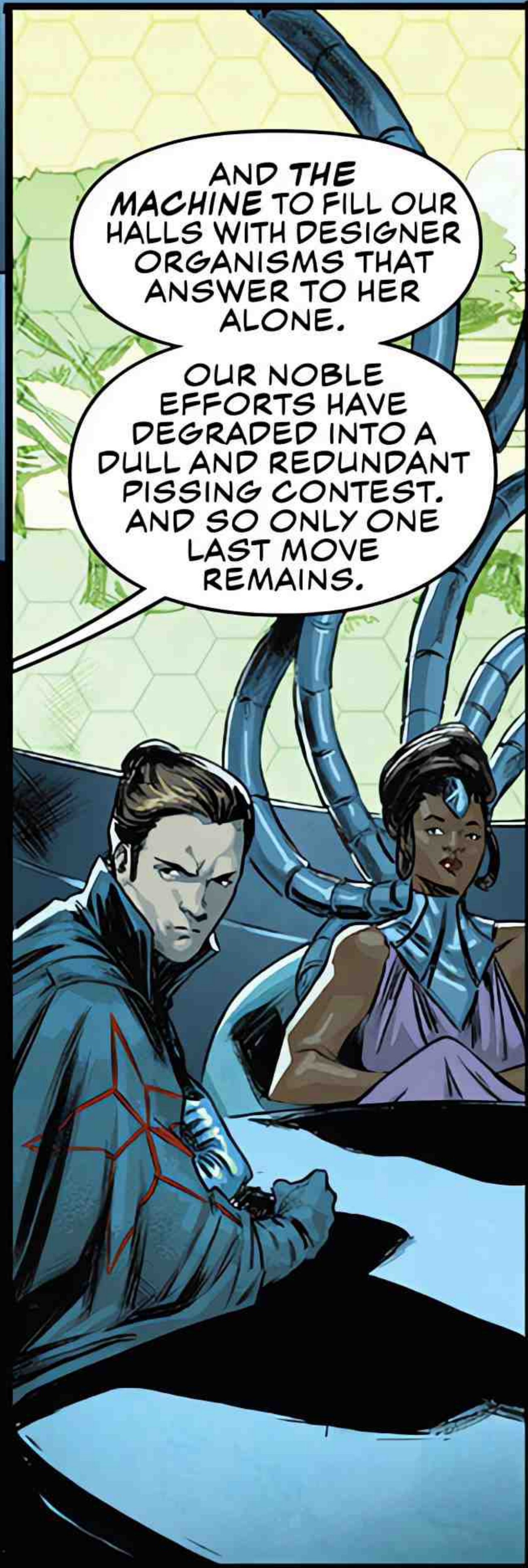


INDEED. AND IN SOONER TIME THAN I'M SURE ANY OF US IMAGINED.



THE POWER HAS USED HIS FINAL MOVE TO SAVE HIS OWN LIFE.

THE MONEY TO HIRE MERCENARIES TO DEFEND OUR FORTRESS.

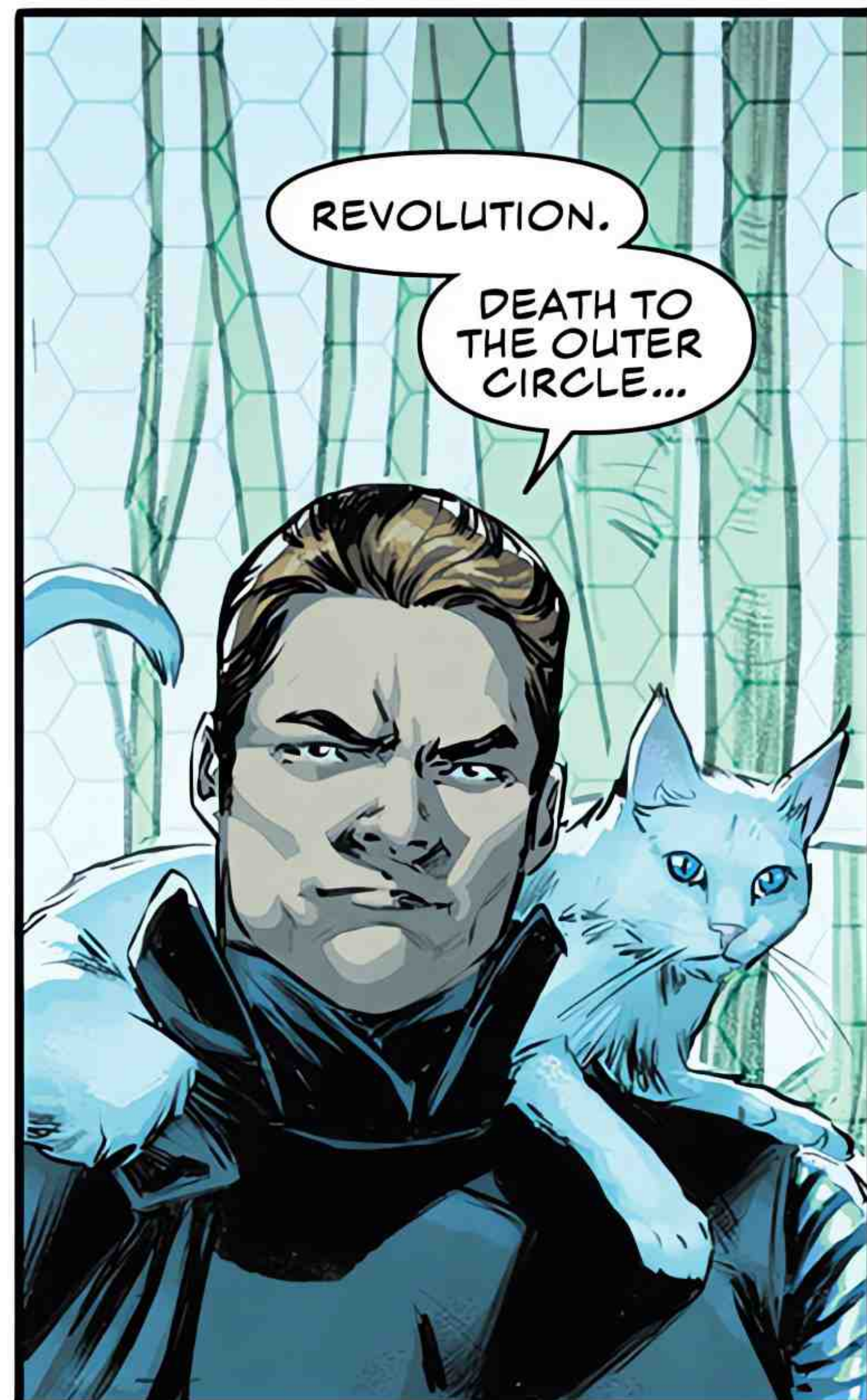
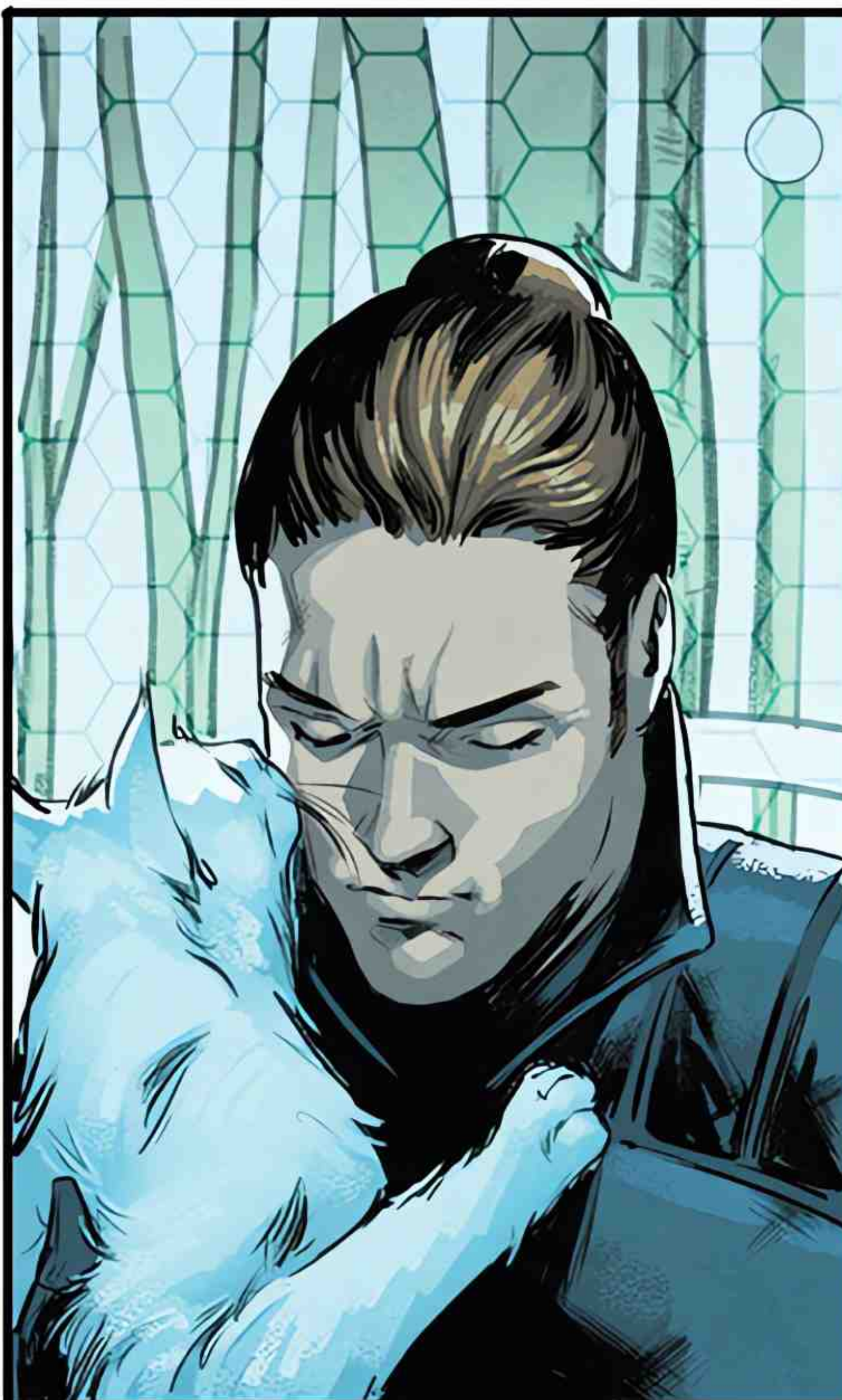
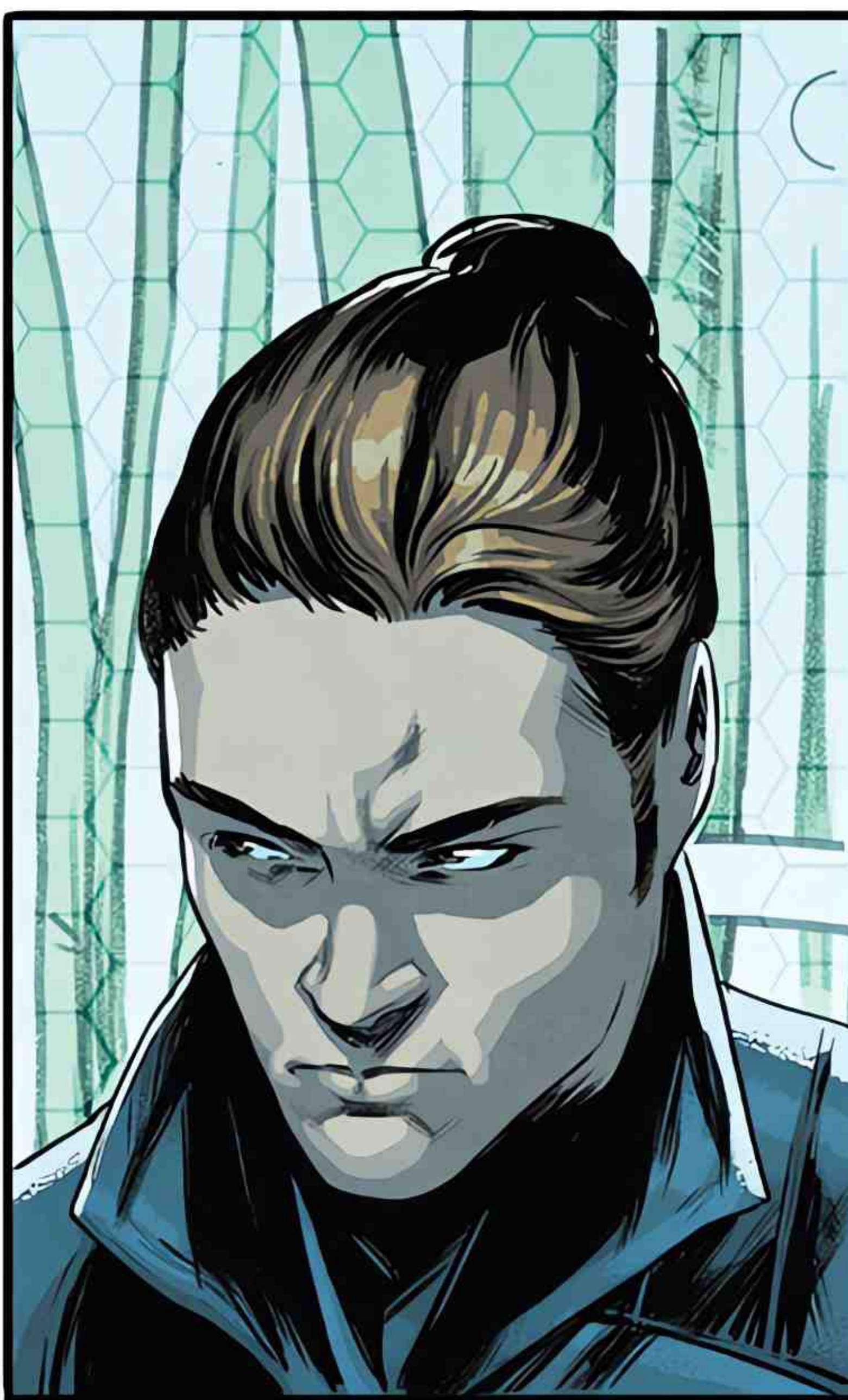


AND THE MACHINE TO FILL OUR HALLS WITH DESIGNER ORGANISMS THAT ANSWER TO HER ALONE.

OUR NOBLE EFFORTS HAVE DEGRADED INTO A DULL AND REDUNDANT PISSING CONTEST. AND SO ONLY ONE LAST MOVE REMAINS.



THE LOVE ABSTAINS...
...AND WITHDRAWS.



"...FINAL
MOVE."

ALL RIGHT,
INVADERS.
WE MOVE
FAST. WE MOVE
STRONG. WE STOP
AT NOTHING.

NOMAD,
KEEP THE
PERIMETER.
DESTROYER,
KEEP THE
PROMISE.
TODAY, WE
DELIVER A
CENTURY OF
JUSTICE.

AND WE
DON'T STOP
MOVING UNTIL
THE JOB'S
DONE.

THE OUTER CIRCLE
HAS ARRAYED
EVERY VILLAIN THEY
CAN PAY AGAINST
ME AND MINE.

THE GUNFIRE
BRINGS BACK
A THOUSAND
MEMORIES.

AND IN
EVERY ONE
OF THEM:
VICTORY.

I REMEMBER THE
WAY TASKMASTER
BRACES WHEN HE
THROWS THE
SHIELD.

THE WAY VIPER
RELIES ON RANGE
TO KEEP HER
QUARRY AT BAY.

THE WAY
CROSSBONES
LEAVES HIS RIGHT
SIDE EXPOSED WHEN
YOU STEP TO HIM
WITH YOUR LEFT.

THE WAY
NAMOR WOULD
LAUGH AS HE
ROPE A NAZI
BOMBER OUT
OF THE SKY.

THE WAY JIM
WOULD CLEAR
A FIELD OF FIRE
WITH A WAVE
OF HIS HAND.

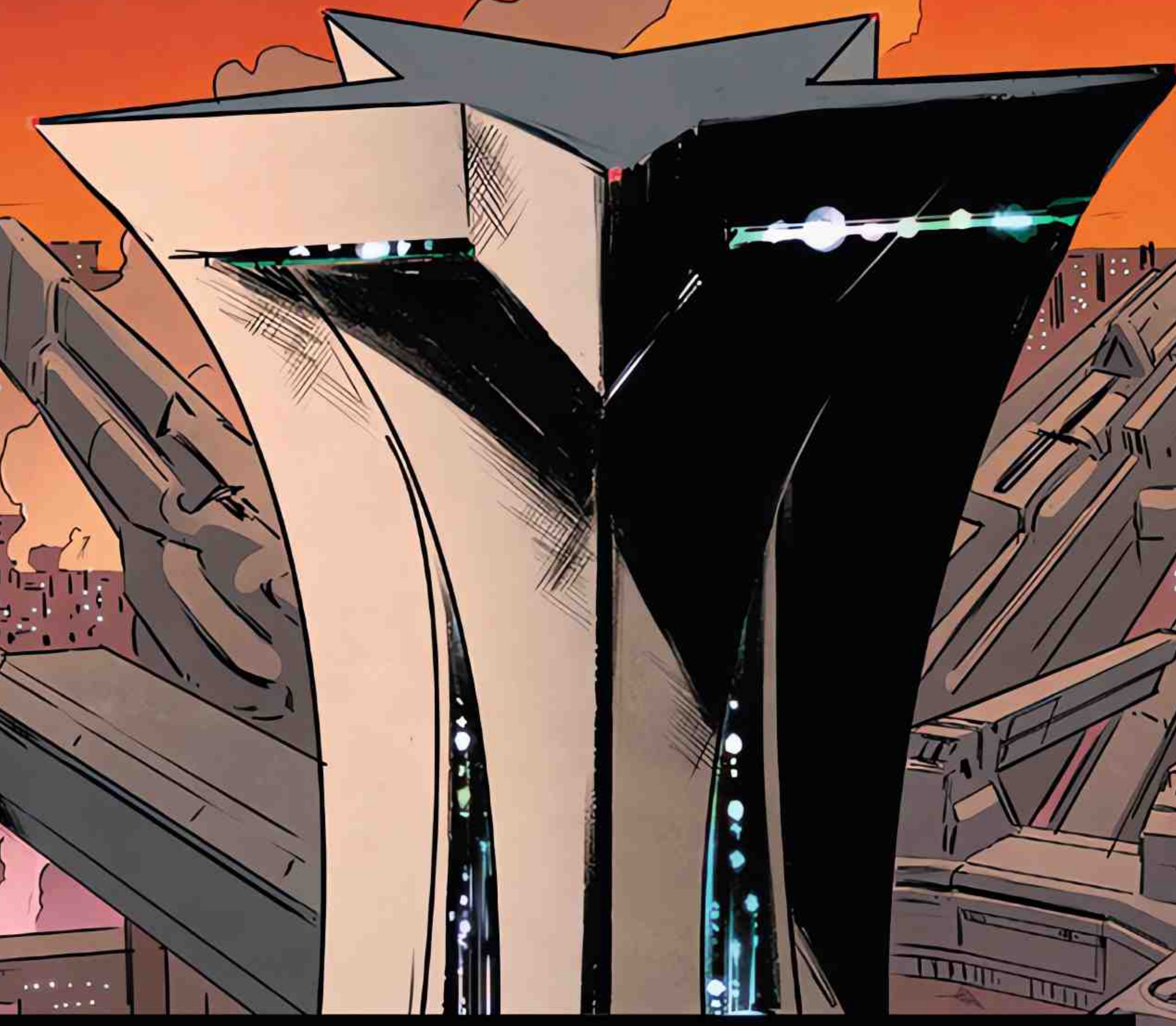
THE WAY THE
SHIELD CURVED
IN THE COLD
GERMAN WINDS.

ONCE,
THEY SEEMED
LIKE THE DISTANT
RECOLLECTIONS
OF AN OLD AND
TIRED MAN.

BUT NOW I
SEE THEM
FOR WHAT
THEY ARE.

LESSONS, TAUGHT
TO ME BY FRIENDS,
SO THAT WHEN THE
IMPOSSIBLE STANDS
BEFORE ME...

...I STAND
A FIGHTING
CHANCE.



WELL, THAT
WASN'T IN THE
BRIEFING.

GUESS THE
CIRCLE GOT TIRED OF
SOLDIERS WITH THEIR
OWN MINDS. I'LL NEVER
BREAK THROUGH THIS
LINE IN TIME.

YOU CAN.
IF WE PULL
THEIR FIRE.



ROBOTIC
SOLDIERS.
HUNDREDS OF
THEM.

THE
MACHINE'S
BEEN
BUSY.

HE'S
RIGHT. WE
NEED TO TAKE
THE FIRE.

SHARON,
THAT'S TOO MUCH
RESISTANCE. EVEN
FOR YOU.



BABY, WHEN
I SURVIVE THIS,
I'M NEVER GONNA
LET YOU HEAR THE
END OF IT.

NOW,
GO FINISH
THIS...



"...AND LET ME
DO WHAT I DO
BEST."

DESTROYER!
WE HAVE MORE
HOSTILES THAN MY
TACTICAL SCANNERS
CAN TRACK--

THEN
DON'T TRACK.
JUST ACT. FIGHT
UNTIL YOU CAN'T
KEEP FIGHTING.

THIS BATTLE
SHAPED BOTH OUR
LIVES. WHO CARES
IF WE GO DOWN AS
LONG AS WE TAKE
THIS PLACE DOWN
WITH US?!

WE--
SHOULD HAVE
BROUGHT--AN--
ZZZK.

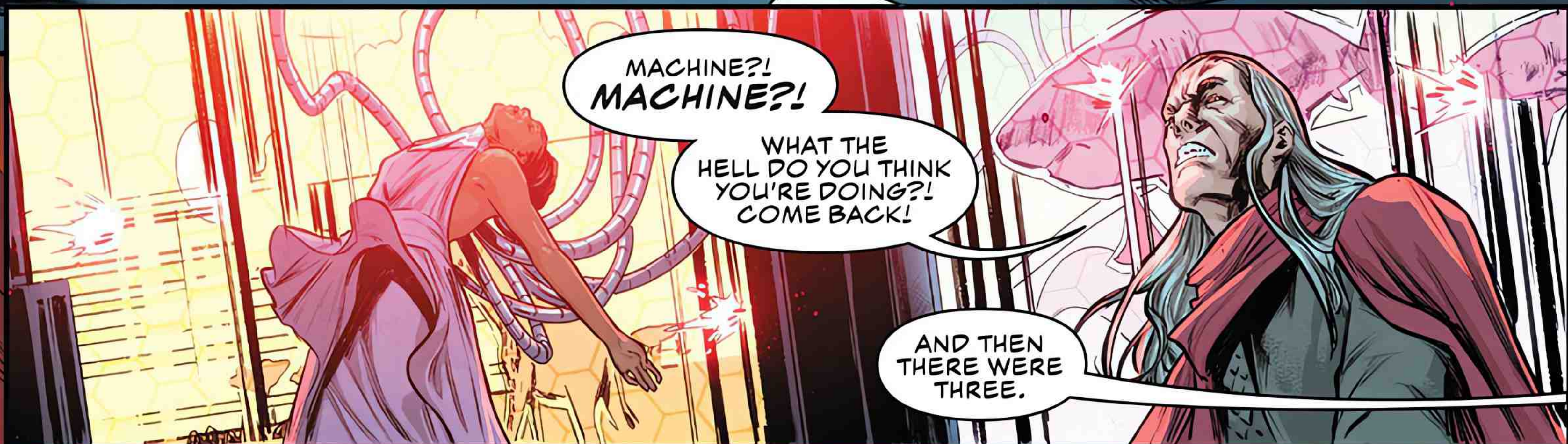
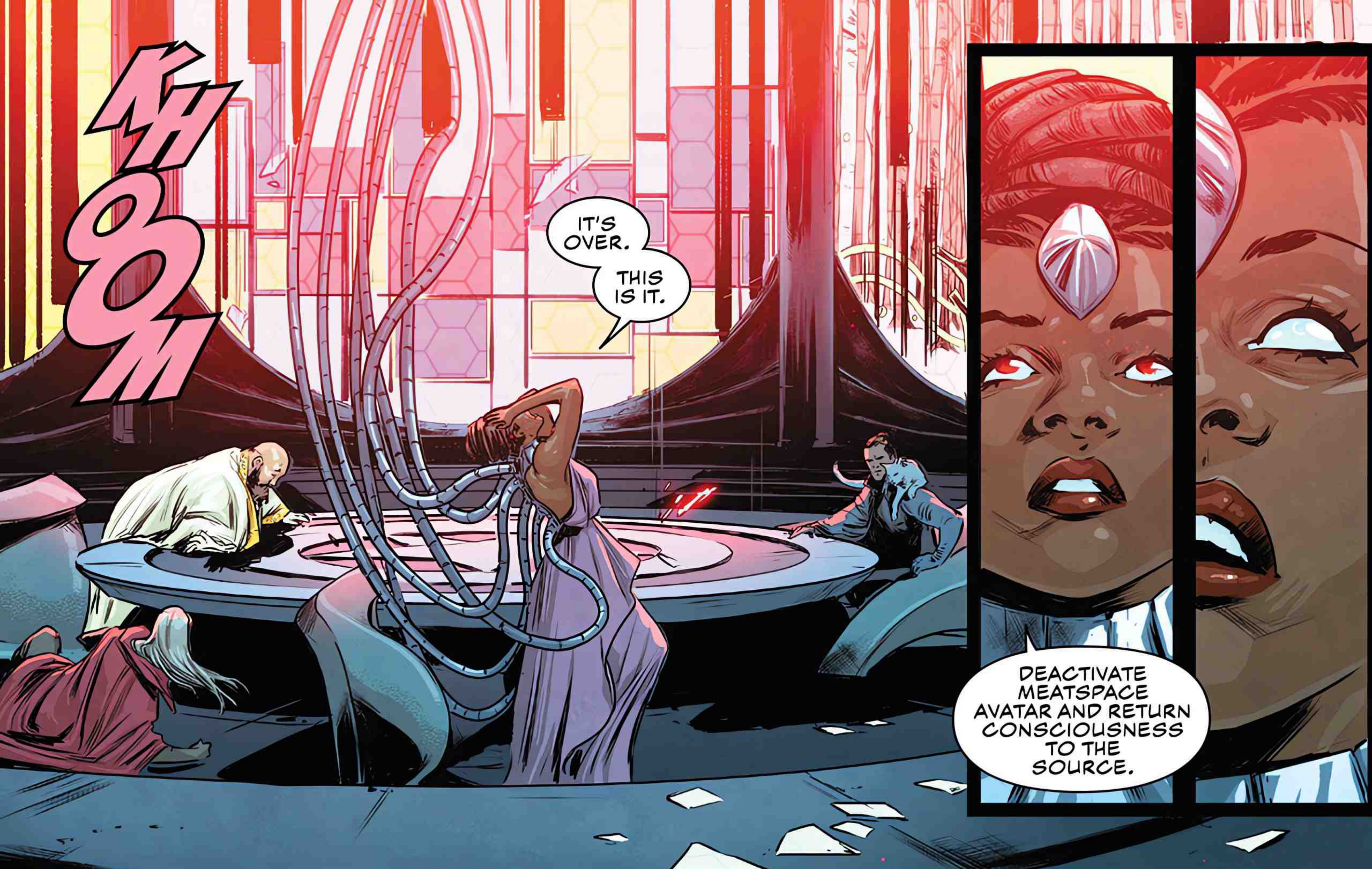
AN ARMY?
YEAH. HINDSIGHT'S A
BITCH, HUH? JUST KEEP
SWINGING, AND MAKE
SURE THEY HAVE THE
SCARS TO REMEMBER
YOU!

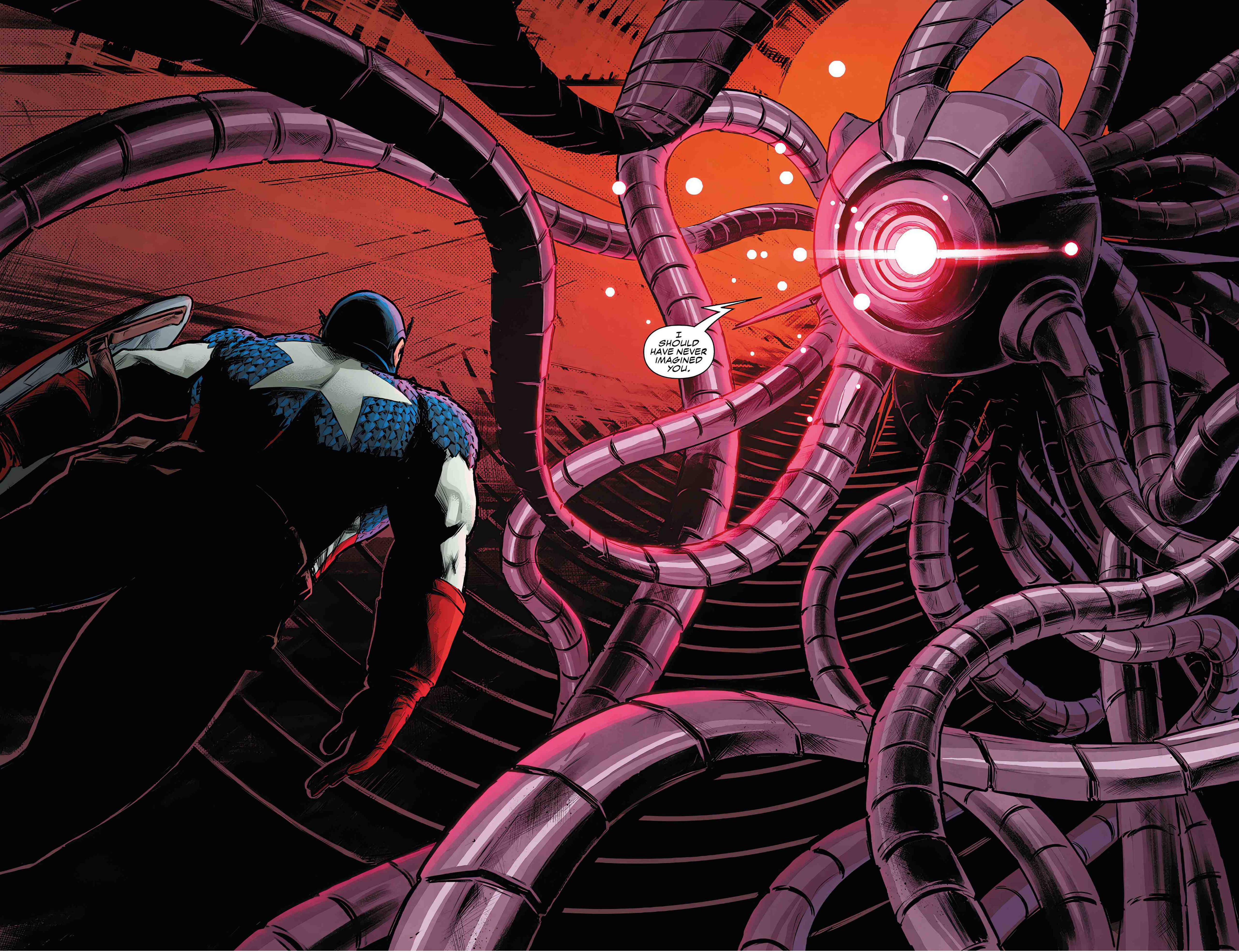
I'M AFRAID
I DON'T HAVE AN
ARMY, MOM...

IAN.



...BUT
WOULD YOU
SETTLE FOR SOME
HOWLING
COMMANDOS?







AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, THE SYMBOL OF MY HUBRIS FINALLY STANDS BEFORE THE MACHINE'S TRUE FORM.

AND HE COMES CLAD IN GARISH COLORS, WIELDING MY LIFE'S SHARPEST BETRAYAL.

"WHEN I WAS HUMAN, I LOVED A CHILD. I NAMED HIM DANIEL.

"THE NAME WAS NOT IN THE TRADITION OF MY PEOPLE. IT SERVED AS A REMINDER. NONE COULD JUDGE ME--NOT KING OR PRIEST OR WARRIOR."



ONLY GOD.

WHICH, OF COURSE, I BECAME.



"I REGRET WHAT I DID TO MY BOY. I REGRET MORE THAT HE FOUND IN MY ACTIONS THE FUEL FOR HIS HERESY.

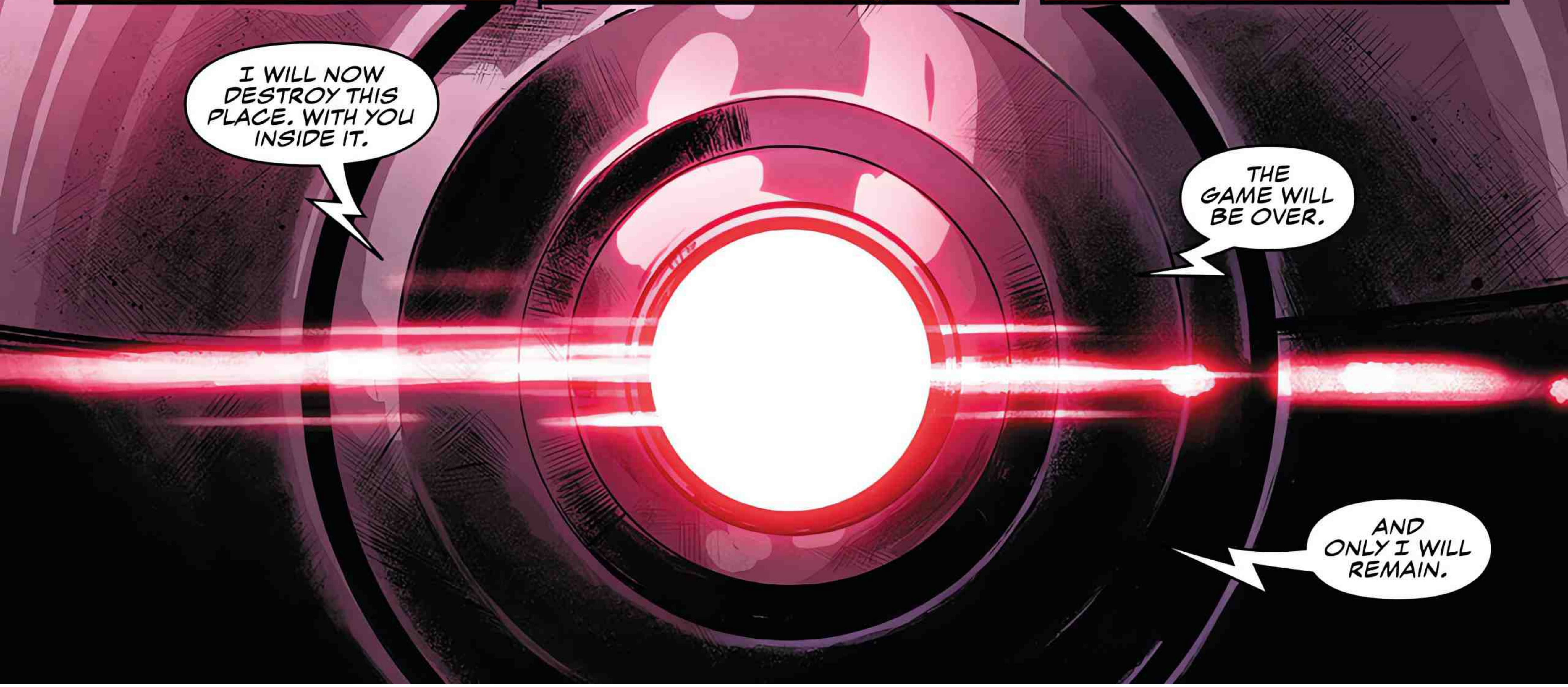
"SO I HEREBY DIVEST MYSELF FROM THIS PETTY PLANET AND ITS LEVERS OF MONEY AND POWER."

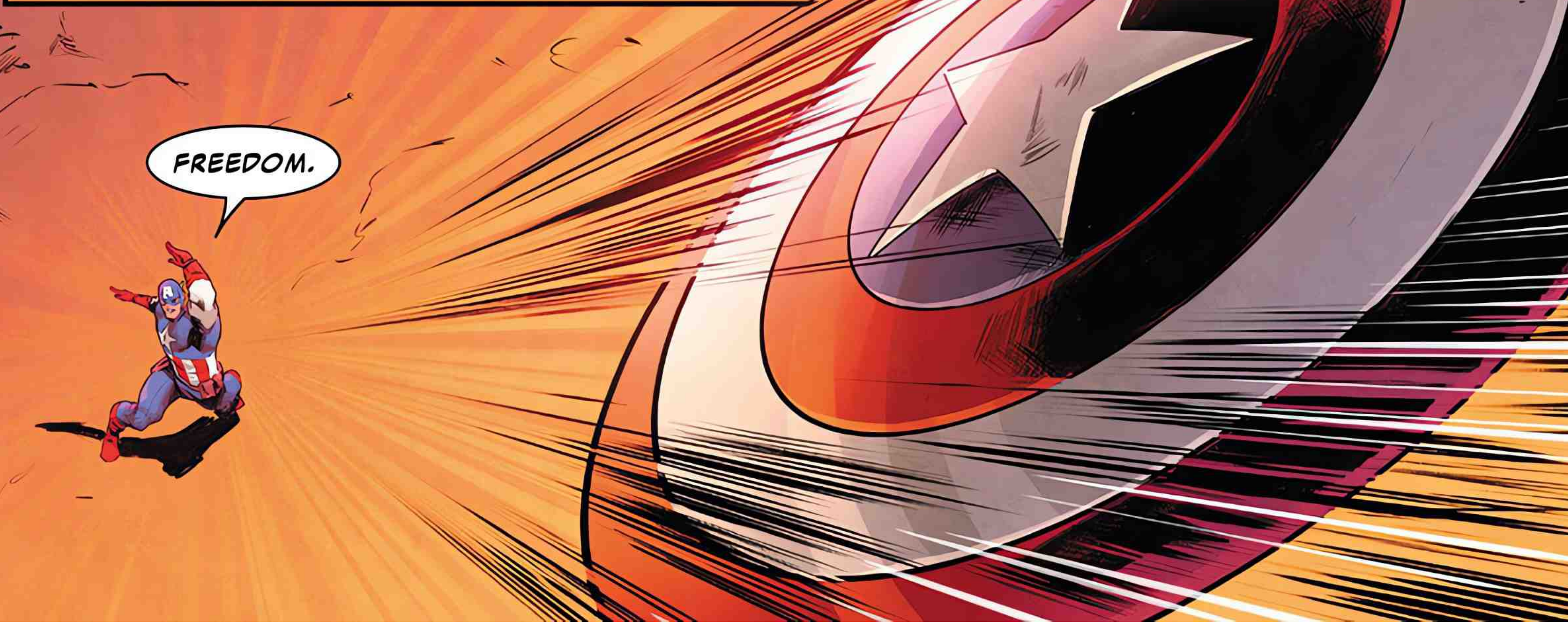


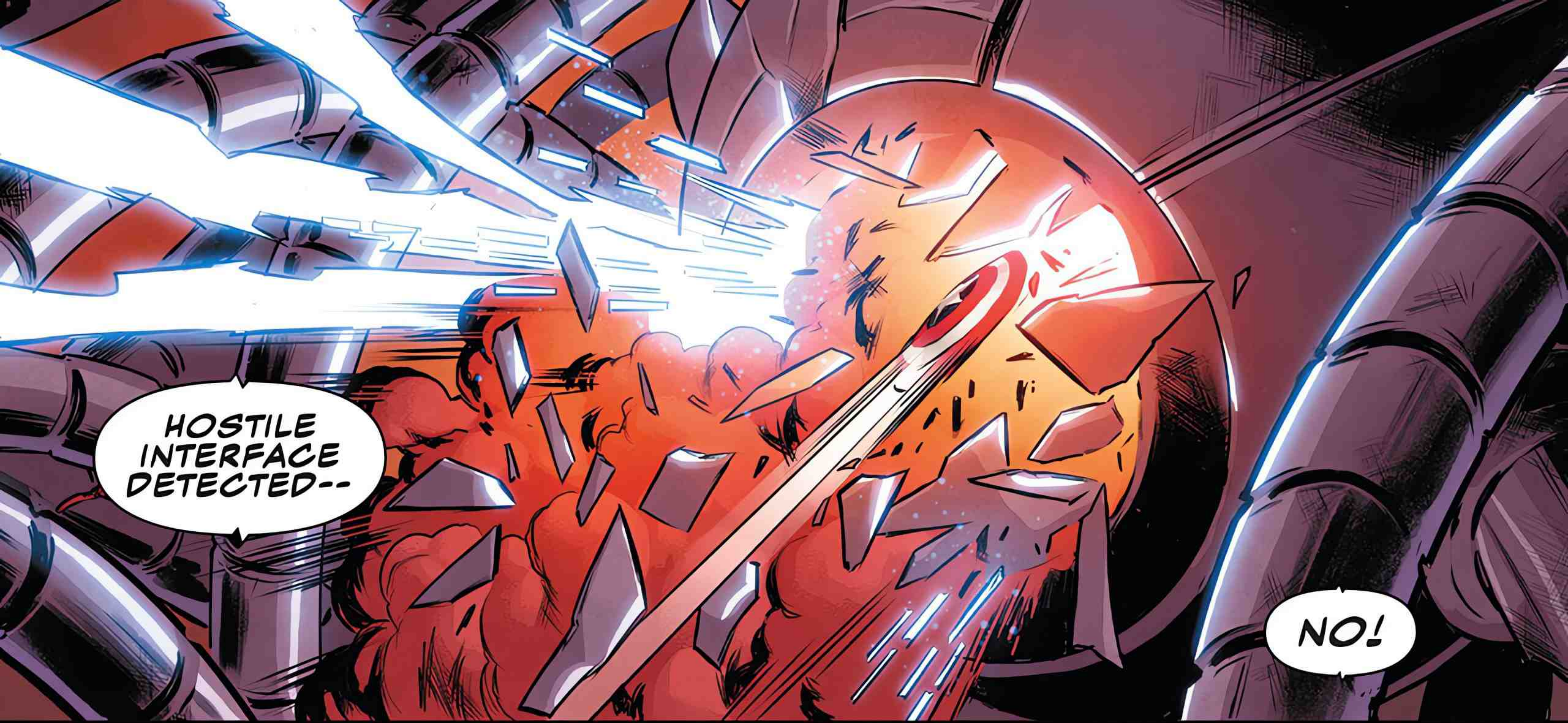
I WILL NOW DESTROY THIS PLACE. WITH YOU INSIDE IT.

THE GAME WILL BE OVER.

AND ONLY I WILL REMAIN.







HOSTILE
INTERFACE
DETECTED--

NO!



INTEGRATING
EMBEDDED CODE
AND INITIATING
SCAN.

NO!
STOP!!!



CODE
INTEGRATED.
MASTER OVERRIDE
CONFIRMED.

USER I.D.:
AGBOJE.

KILL SWITCH
INITIATED.



HELLO,
MOTHER.



AND
GOODBYE.



THE
ENGINES. DO
YOU HEAR THAT?
THE ENGINES
ARE DEAD.

AND SO
IS SHE.

DO YOU GET
IT YET, YOU
BASTARDS?

THE MACHINE
BUILT THIS PLACE. SHE
WAS CONNECTED TO
EVERYTHING.

AND
NOW SHE'S
BROKEN.

IT IS YOU
WHO WILL BREAK,
YOU UNGRATEFUL
WRETCH!



ETIEN?!

I'M AFRAID
I MUST
WITHDRAW MY
ACCOUNT.

YOU
COWARD!

YOU ARE
THE ROT AT
THE HEART
OF GLORY,
ETIEN!

YOU ARE A
BLIGHT!

I AM THE
BLOOD OF
THE WORLD,
YOU IGNORANT
TYRA--

VEL
VERDOMME?!

NO, WAIT,
I JUST
WANTED
TO--

CRUNCH



PRR
PRRR
PRRR

ALPINE?!

MROW!

DAMN.
THAT WAS
COLD, LITTLE
GIRL.

MEOW!

YOU SURE
YOU'RE NOT THE
PUNISHER'S
CAT?

MRRAO!

YOU'RE
NOT KIDDING.
BUT IT'S ALL
PART OF THE
PLAN.

LEARNED
A LOT FROM
YOU ALREADY,
I KNOW...BUT
WHADDYA
SAY?

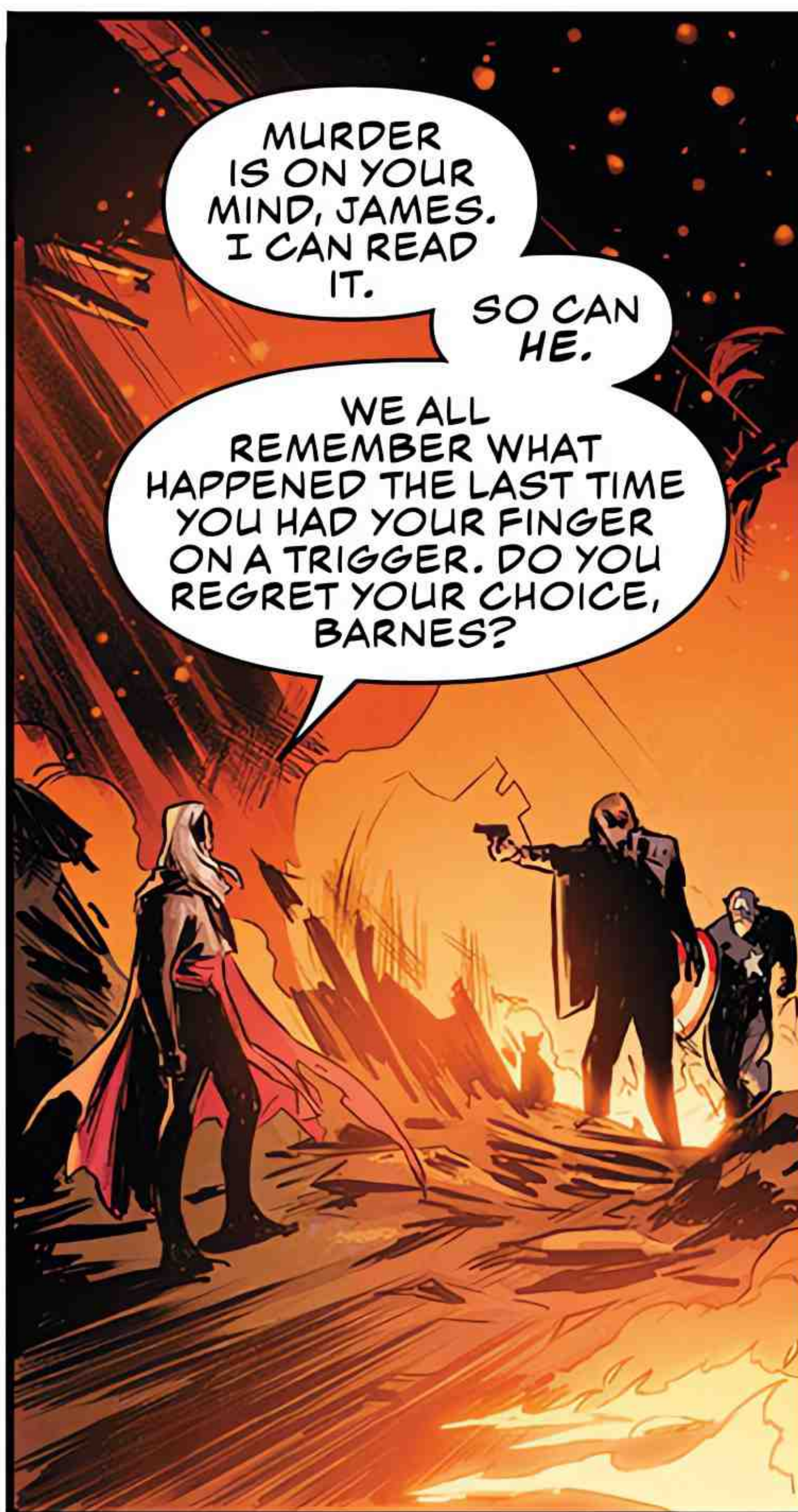
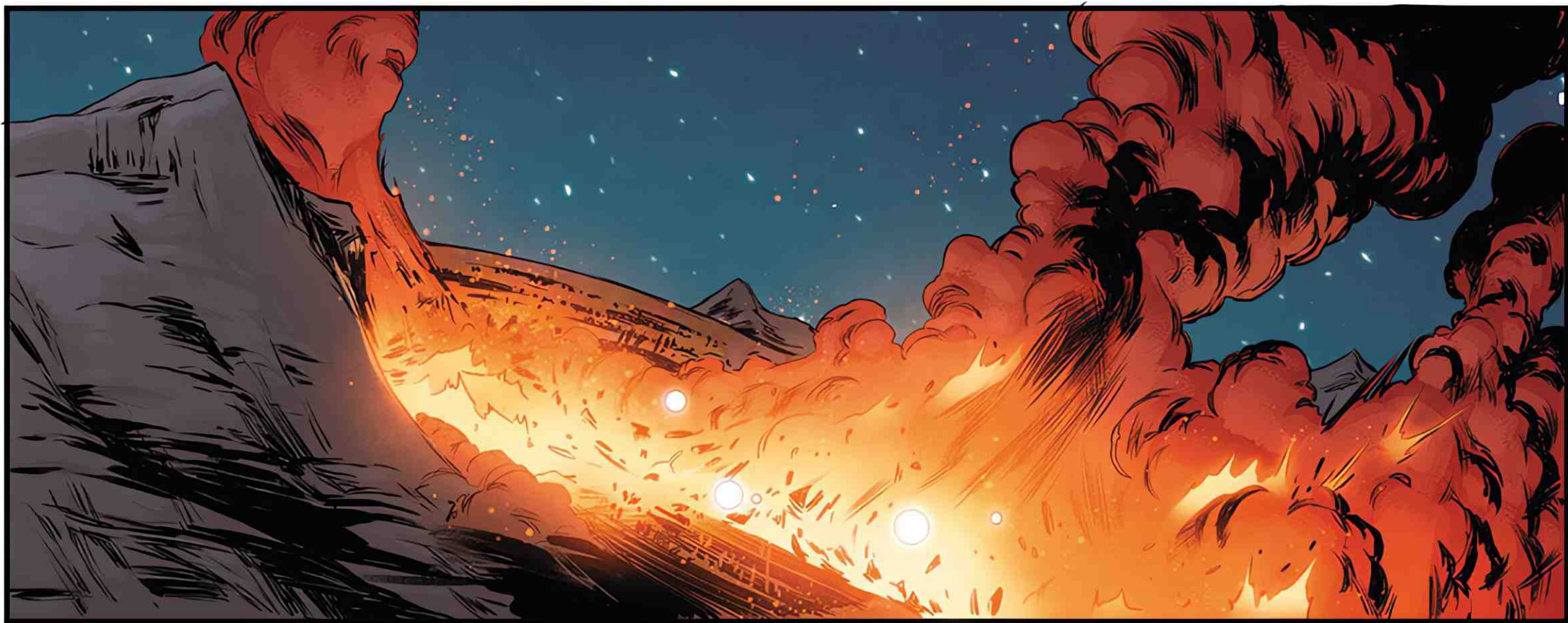
WANNA
TEACH ME HOW
TO LAND ON MY
FEET?





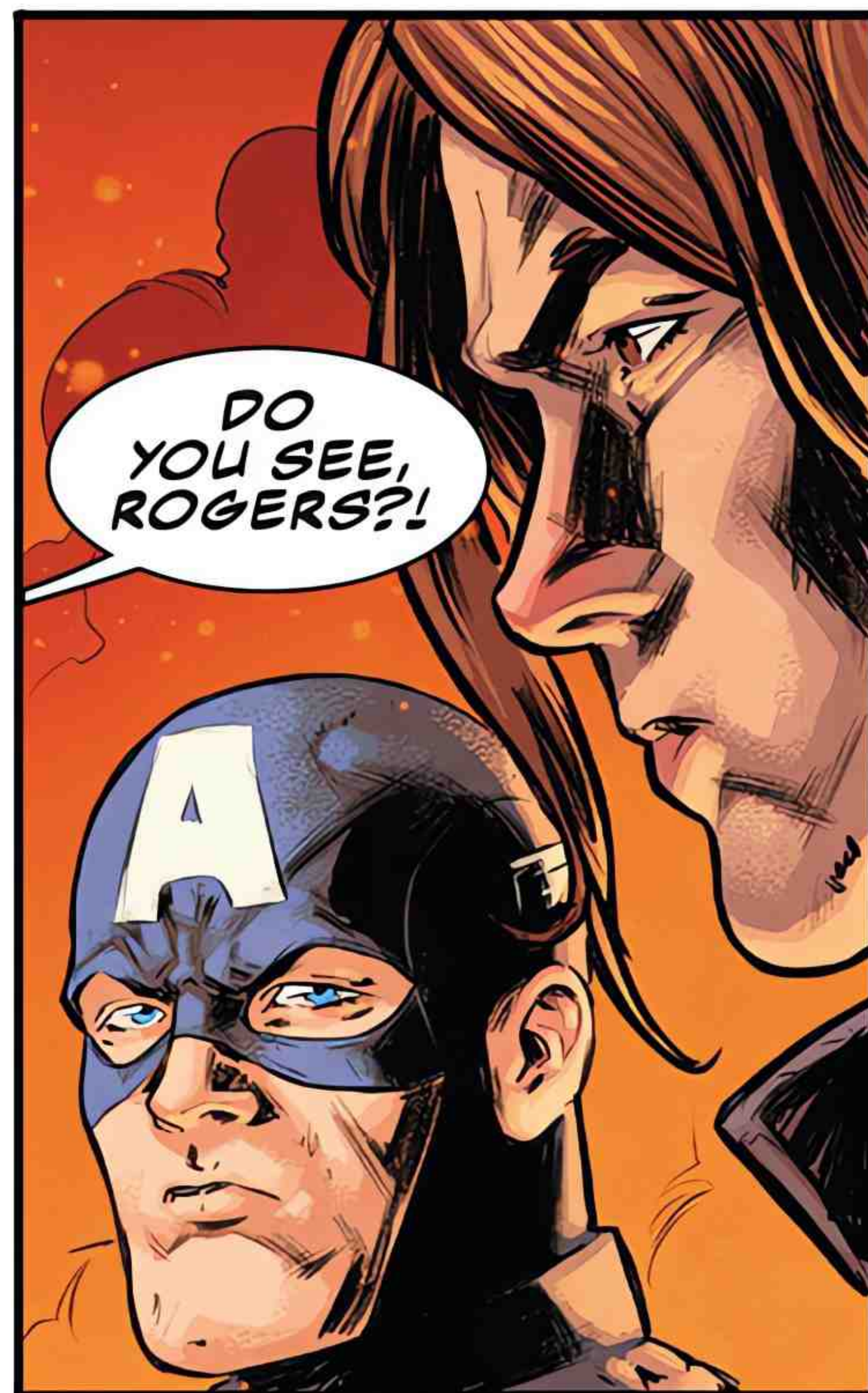
ВООМ



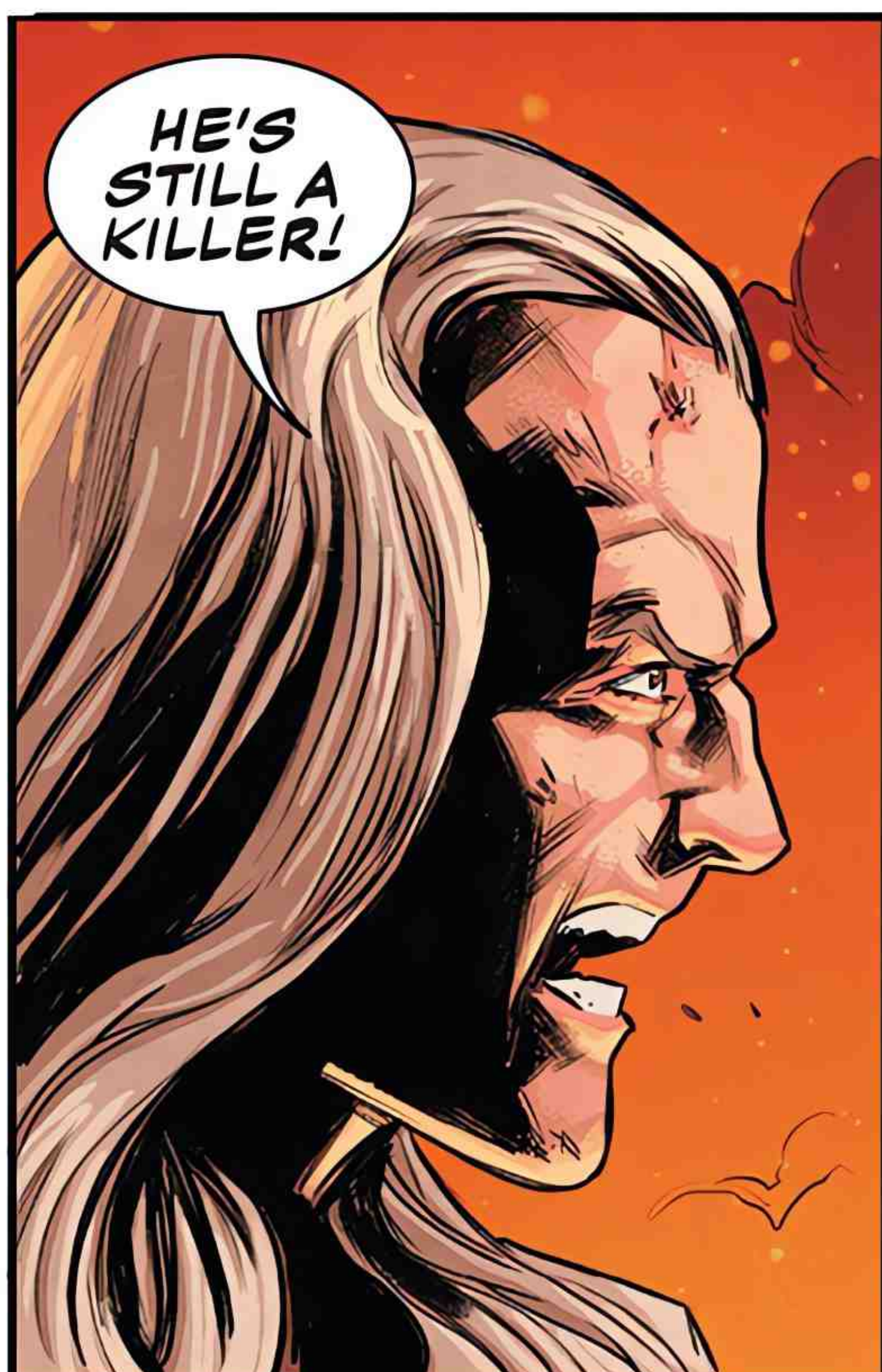




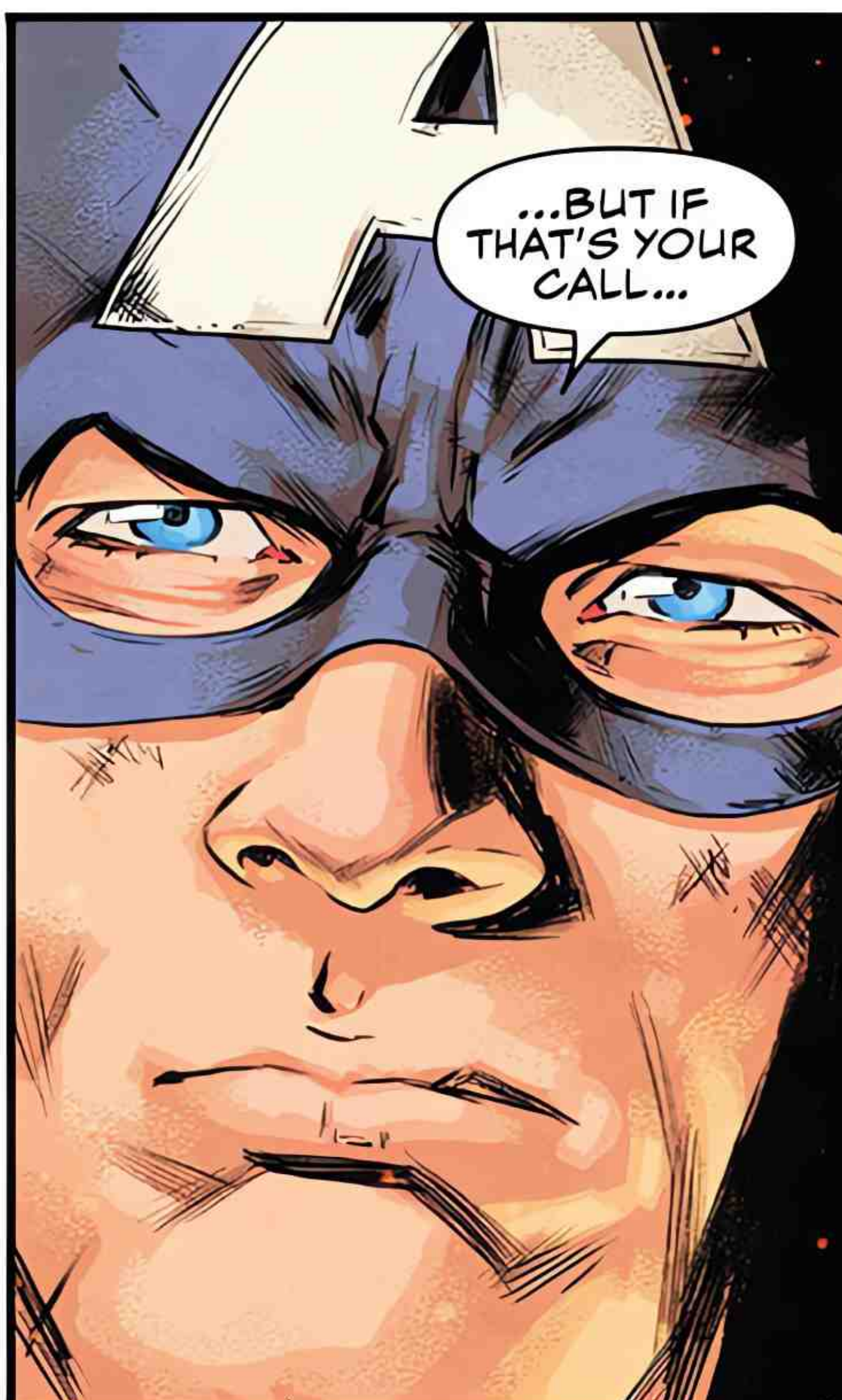
BUCKY.
YOU
DON'T HAVE
TO PULL THE
TRIGGER...



DO
YOU SEE,
ROGERS?!



HE'S
STILL A
KILLER!



...BUT IF
THAT'S YOUR
CALL...



...YOU'RE
MY FRIEND.



AND
I TRUST
YOU.



YOU KNOW
WHAT, STEVE?
NOW THAT YOU
MENTION
IT...



...I THINK
I HAVE A
BETTER
IDEA.



FORTUNOV.



WULFGANG
FORTUNOV.
BROTHER OF KING
VLADMIR. LONG-
LOST BROTHER.

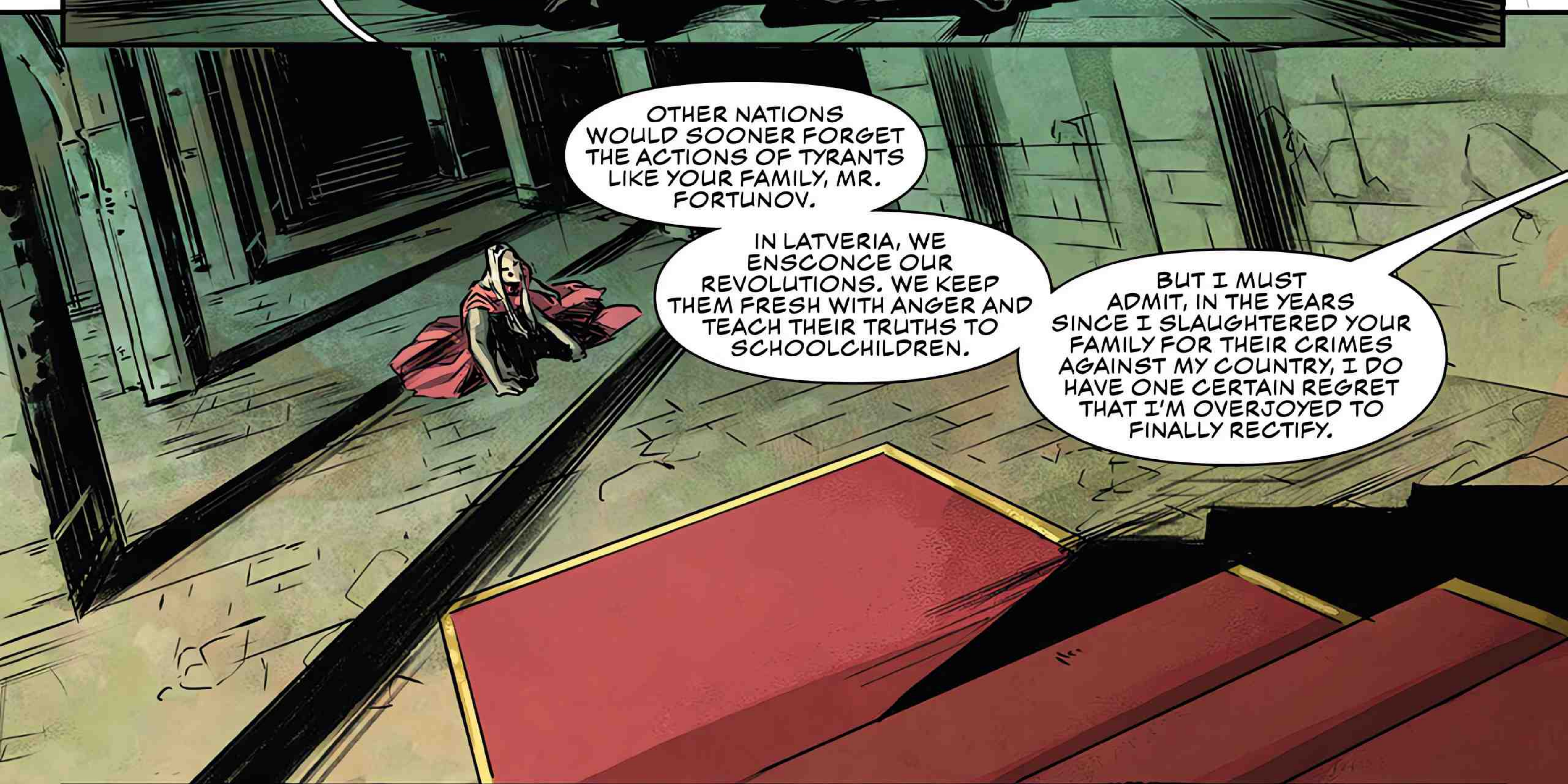
CONSIDER
YOURSELF
FOUND.



THE INSIPID HEROES OF
AMERICA TELL ME YOU'VE SPENT
A HUNDRED YEARS SHAPING
THEIR HISTORY.

THEY TELL ME
YOU'VE TAKEN THE
MANTLE OF POWER AND
CLAIMED IT FOR
YOUR OWN.

THEY TELL
ME YOU'VE MEDDLED
WITH THE FABRIC OF
MAGIC.



OTHER NATIONS
WOULD SOONER FORGET
THE ACTIONS OF TYRANTS
LIKE YOUR FAMILY, MR.
FORTUNOV.

IN LATVERIA, WE
ENSCONCE OUR
REVOLUTIONS. WE KEEP
THEM FRESH WITH ANGER AND
TEACH THEIR TRUTHS TO
SCHOOLCHILDREN.

BUT I MUST
ADMIT, IN THE YEARS
SINCE I SLAUGHTERED YOUR
FAMILY FOR THEIR CRIMES
AGAINST MY COUNTRY, I DO
HAVE ONE CERTAIN REGRET
THAT I'M OVERJOYED TO
FINALLY RECTIFY.



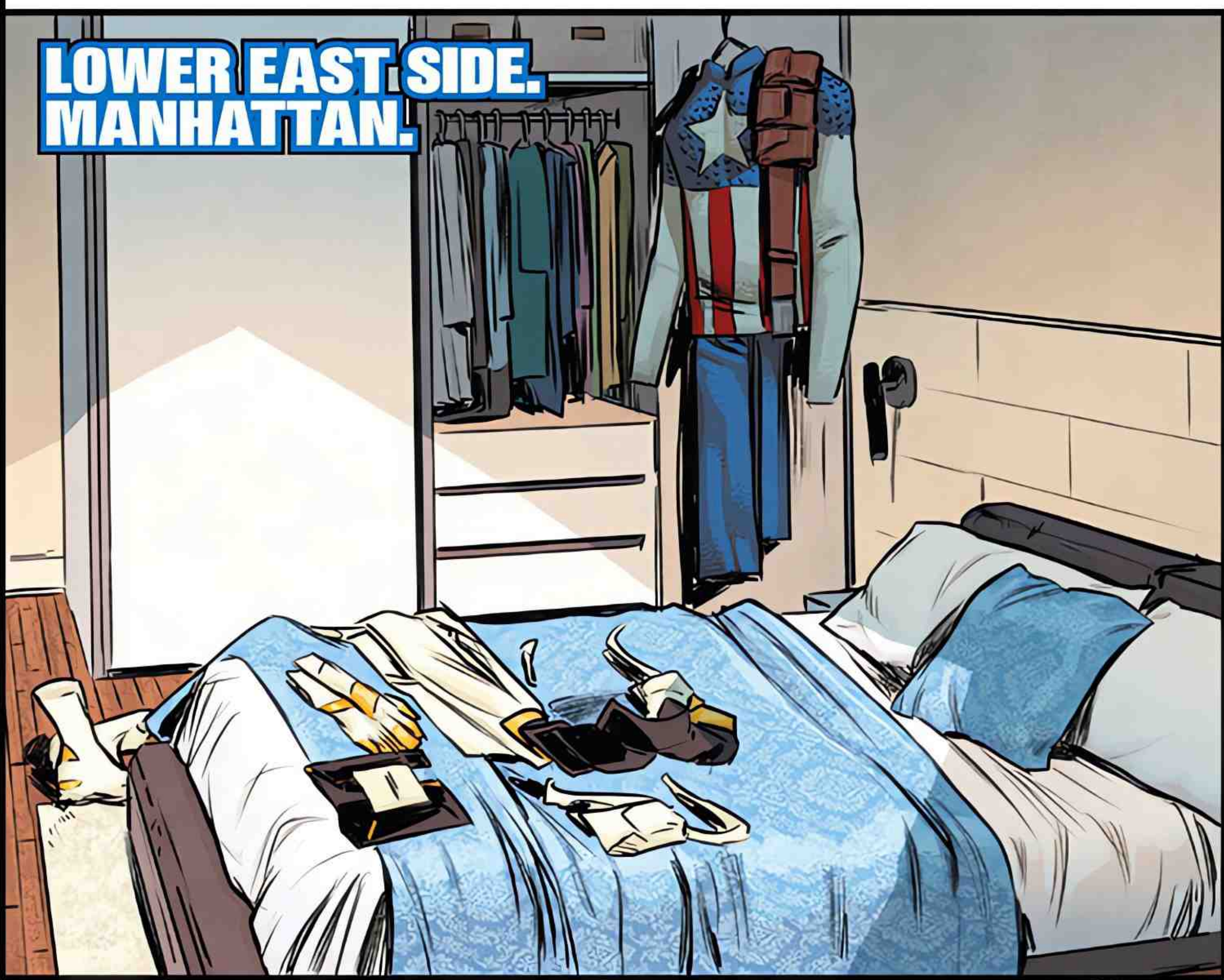
YOU MADE YOUR
LITTLE GAME LAST
A CENTURY?

WELL, LET
ME ASSURE
YOU...



...DOOM
WILL MAKE
YOUR DEATH
LAST MUCH
LONGER.

LOWER EAST SIDE,
MANHATTAN.

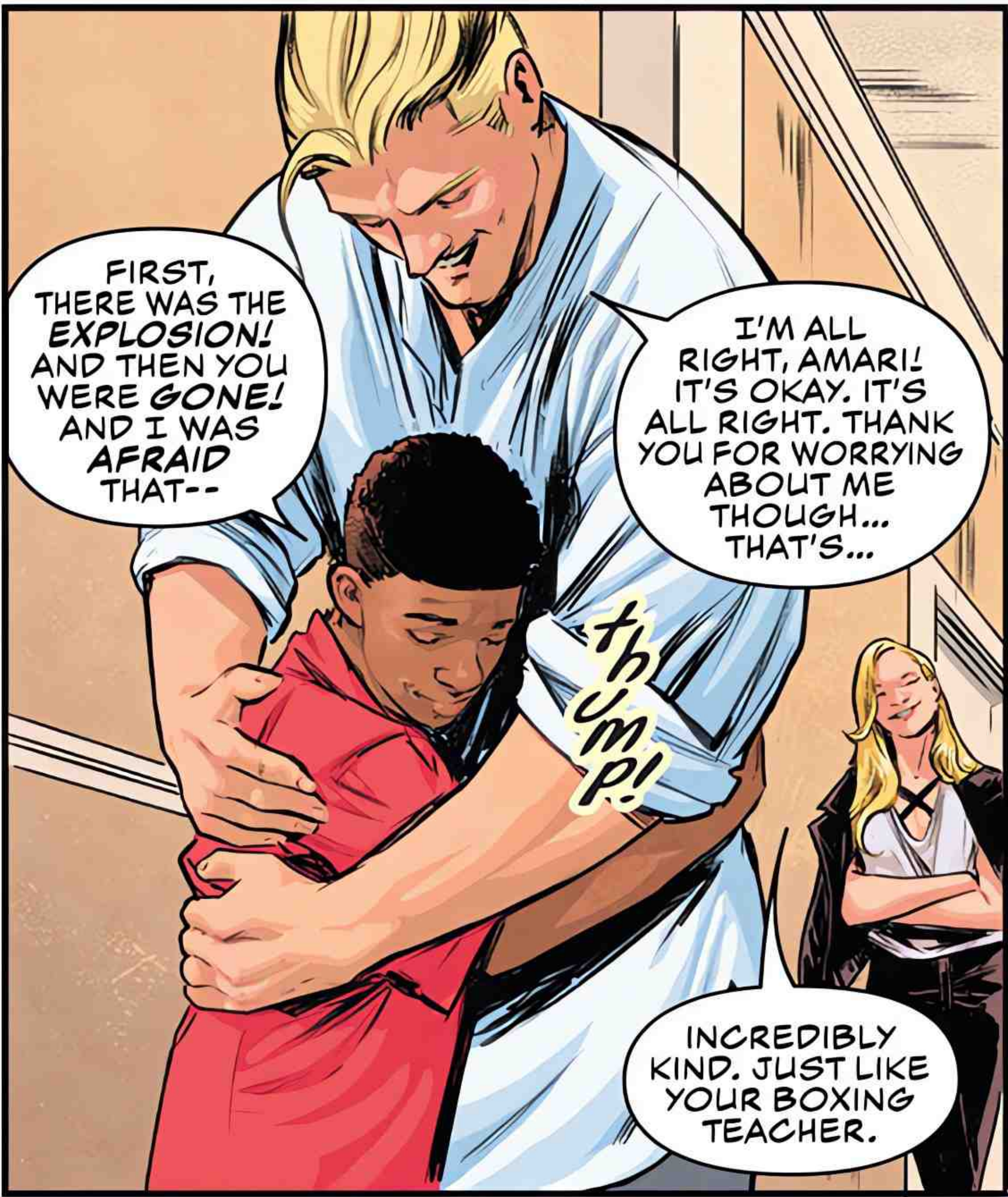


DELI?
CAN WE
GO TO QUEENS?
I'VE BEEN CRAVING
THOSE CHICHARRONES
SINCE ALASKA.

I WAS
KINDA HOPING
WE COULD KEEP
IT CLOSER
TO--

STEVE!

415

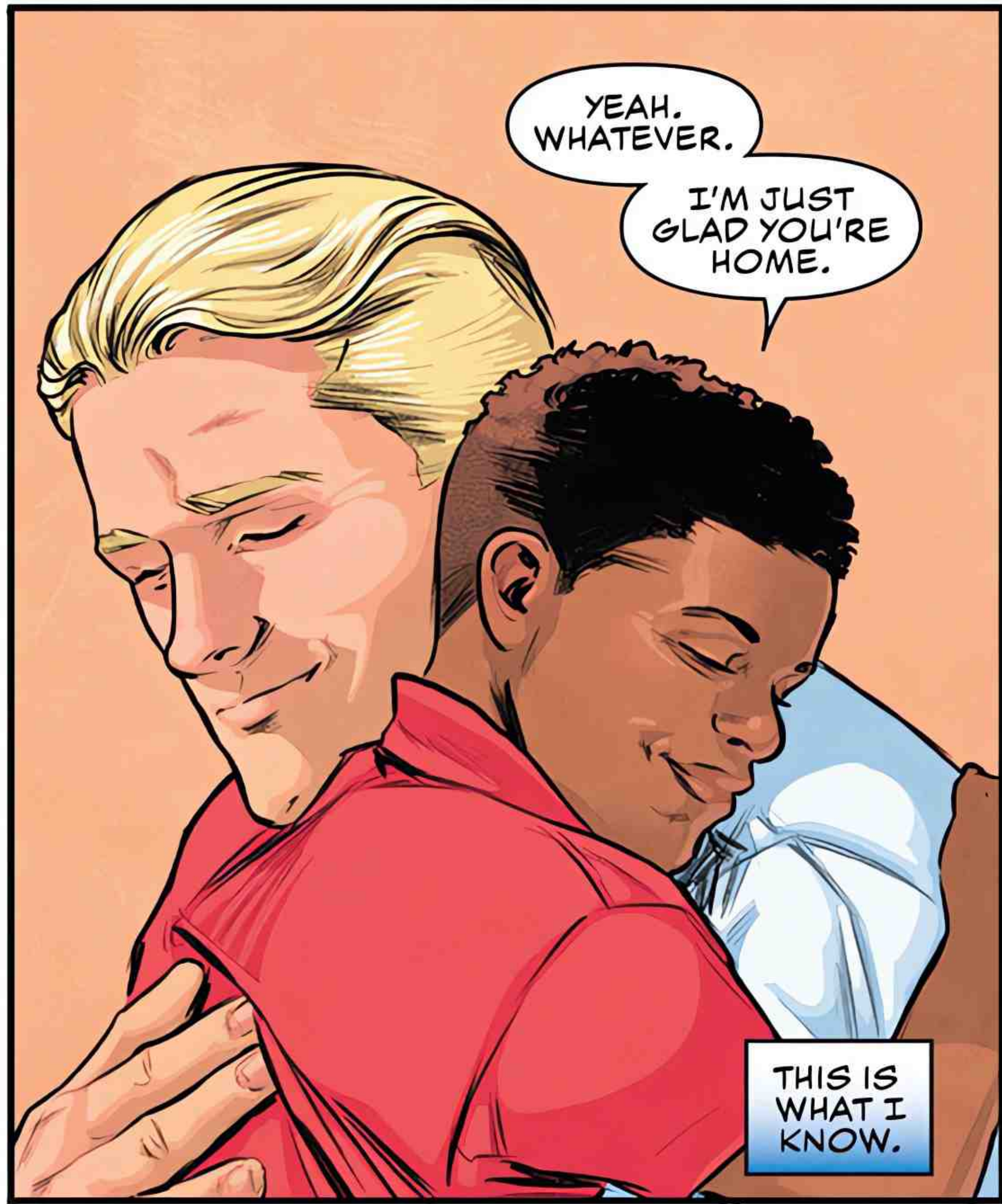


FIRST,
THERE WAS THE
EXPLOSION!
AND THEN YOU
WERE GONE!
AND I WAS
AFRAID
THAT--

I'M ALL
RIGHT, AMARI!
IT'S OKAY. IT'S
ALL RIGHT. THANK
YOU FOR WORRYING
ABOUT ME
THOUGH...
THAT'S...

thump!

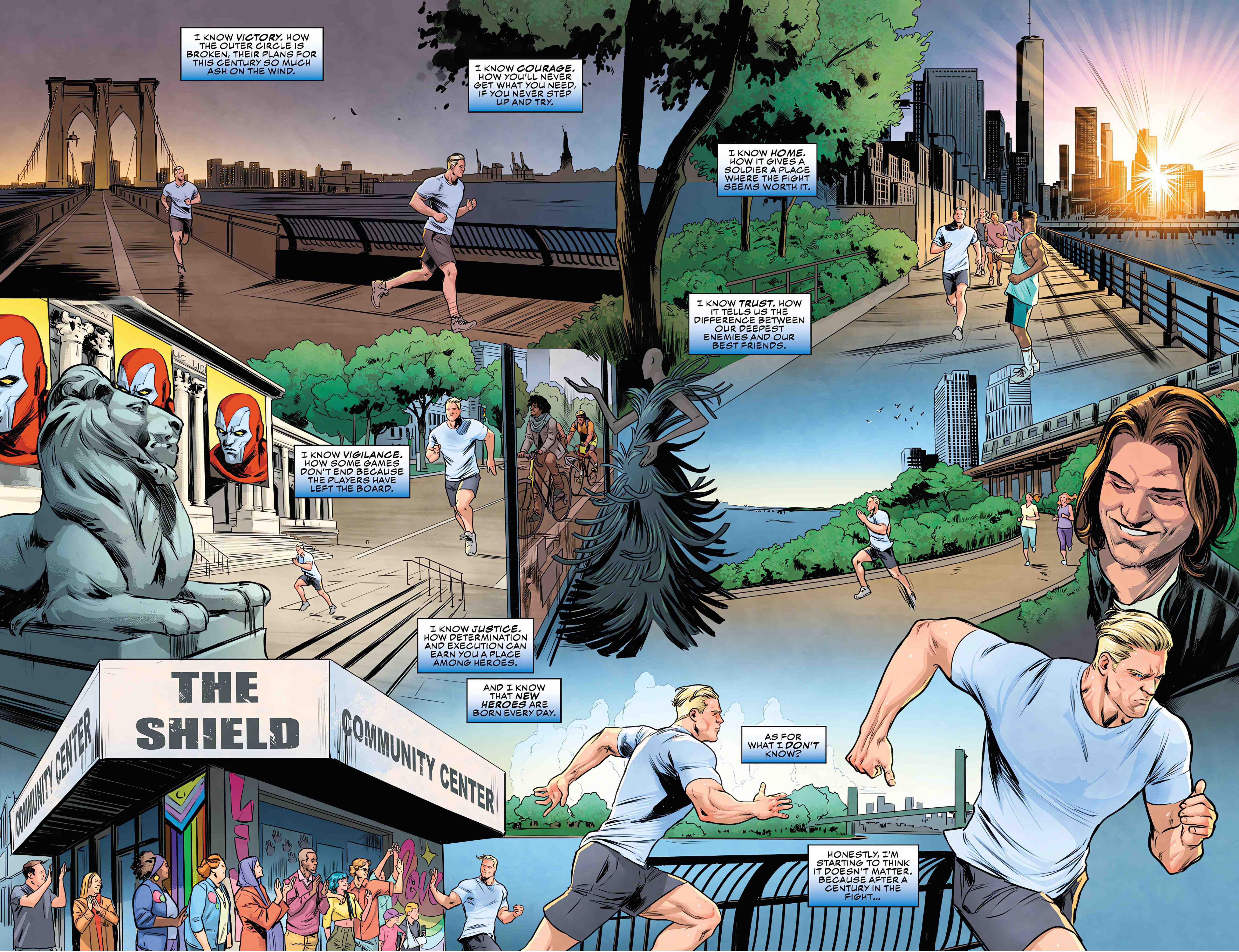
INCREDIBLY
KIND. JUST LIKE
YOUR BOXING
TEACHER.



YEAH.
WHATEVER.

I'M JUST
GLAD YOU'RE
HOME.

THIS IS
WHAT I
KNOW.





...I FINALLY
KNOW
MYSELF.





"You never fight alone."

As two best friends who have spent the last fifteen years telling stories together, those four words mean everything to us. They've been a promise at our lowest and a celebration in victory. For the Hivemind, as we've come to call our steadfast partnership, they're practically a mantra.

But we didn't know their true meaning 'til they were spoken by Steve Rogers and Bucky Barnes.

Steve is a man of near-perfect moral clarity; his super-power isn't his strength, but his ability to inspire even the worst people toward their best self. Bucky, meanwhile, is the walking embodiment of moral complexity; his best self is the one who makes the difficult decisions in moments when there is no "right" answer. The ultimate challenge for both men, then, would be to place those moralities fundamentally at odds--a story where both were right, but in completely incompatible ways.

And so, we imagined the Outer Circle, a garish embodiment of individualism, oligarchy and the "I got mine" ethos. Money, power, technology and culture...these things divide us every day--and it's only by standing together across generations and demographics that we can level that playing field. Fighting alone, we're finished. But together, we can be a revolution.

This holds true in the comics trenches as much as anywhere--and nothing about SENTINEL OF LIBERTY would have been possible without Carmen Carnero. A brilliant collaborator and constant source of excitement about the story we were all telling, she turned every page into a gift. And if our constant emailing in the last few weeks is any indication, we'll not be parted for long.

Nolan Woodard's colors brought Carmen's pages to life brilliantly (Nomad's metal "skin" is a wonder) while master letterer Joe Caramagna rose to every challenge (see issue #3's "rotating spread"). A toast to Tochi Onyebuchi, our partner in the shield, who finally gave Sam Wilson his due as Captain America. And of course, our fearless editor Alanna Smith and assistant editor Kaitlyn Lindtvedt--who built and maintained a team worth fighting for. It is because of these incredible craftspeople that SENTINEL OF LIBERTY existed...

...but it's because of you that it has meaning.

Across this world, you'll find those brave folks who have been inspired by the story of Captain America. We've had the joy of meeting so many of you--and we know that it's in your hands that the future of these characters (and the world that inspired them) rests. How will you carry this story into your life? How will you extend forgiveness to your friends? How will you stand against systems of oppression? That's your story.

And in turn, we can put down our pens with the knowledge that through you--through all of us--these characters and symbols will be with us for another hundred years, so that as we experience upheaval in our life from the most mundane to the most expansive...

...we never fight alone.

Jackson Lanzing & Collin Kelly
"The Hivemind"
Los Angeles, 2023

STEVE ROGERS WILL RETURN IN

CAPTAIN AMERICA

#1



**J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI AND JESUS SAÍZ EMBARK
ON AN EXHILIRATING NEW JOURNEY FOR CAPTAIN AMERICA!**

Team Cap wants to hear from you! Send letters to
MHEROES@MARVEL.COM marked "Okay to Print" for a
chance to see your questions answered in future issues!

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